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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
**diGirolamo et al.**

Serial No.: **10/701,190**  
**Filed: November 4, 2003**

For: **STUD SPACER WITH INTERLOCKING  
PROJECTIONS**

Docket No: **4782-042**

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) **PATENT PENDING**  
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) Examiner: Jeanette Chapman  
)  
) Group Art Unit: 3633  
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) Confirmation No.: 5075  
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February 12, 2009

Date

  
Kathleen L. McDermott

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**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

The present submission is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 22, 2009. Claims 1-44 are pending, and the Patent Office has issued a final rejection of all claims in this case. The final rejection has been carefully studied and reviewed. The Patent Office is respectfully requested to reconsider the claims in the present application for reasons set forth here below.

The Patent Office presents a collection of obviousness rejections in this case. Respectfully, the Patent Office has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness in any of the rejections. The form and content of the presentations of obviousness rejections renders the rejections difficult to understand. Generally, in all of the rejections, the Office Action lacks cogent articulation as to how teachings of the secondary references might be used to modify the